

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

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37. ON THE OCCURRENCE OF *LALLDHWOJIA COOPERI* FARILLE (APIACEAE) IN INDIA

(With a text-figure)

During plant exploration in the alpine region of Chamoli district in Uttar Pradesh, I came across an interesting plant of the Apiaceae family, which on study turned out to be a species of *Lalldhwojia* Farille. This genus was recently established and described by M. A. Ferille (1984) on the basis of its distinct fruits with dorso-lateral mericarps, superficial vittae and persistent calyx. Later, a specimen was sent to Miss J. Lamond, Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, who identified it as *Lalldhwojia cooperi* Farille. The plant was first collected by R. E. Cooper on 01.03.1913 from the Sikkim-Bhutan border. No further collection of this plant had been made so far from other parts of India. The present collection from Chamoli Garhwal is an extension of its distribution to North-West Himalaya. Thus, it can be assumed that this plant is a rare endemic to the Himalayas and it is likely that its specimens may be lying with various Indian herbaria unidentified.

In the present communication, a detailed description of this plant is being given along with its original citation, habit diagram, ecology, specimens examined and distribution.

Lalldhwojia cooperi Farille, *Rev. Gen. Bot.* 91: 31-34, 1984.

Slender herbs, 15-25 cm high. Root stocks perennial, fleshy. Stems simple, glabrous and grooved. Leaves radical and cauline, sparsely pubescent. Petioles 4-6 cm long. Lamina trifoliate. Leaflets 1-2 × 1.5-2.5 cm, mucronate-dentate. Lateral petiolules 1.5 cm and terminal 1-3 cm long. Inflorescences on long axes, umbels unequal. Flowers c. 1-2 mm in diam., purple. Pedicels elongate in fruits. Involucral bracts absent. Sepals acute, petals obtuse. Fruits ovate elliptic, 2-3 mm in length, costae inconspicuous (Fig. 1).

My specimen (*Rawat* 2211, Herbarium WII) differs from the original description by Farille, in having larger size (15-25 cm), larger radical leaves and petioles of lateral leaflets c. 0.5-1.5 cm long.

Habits: Rather scarce, near shady places and rock shelters, mainly associated with *Acronema tenera*, *Saxifraga pallida*, *Parietaria debilis* etc. between elevations 3,000-3,500 m a.s.l.

Flowers and fruits: July-September.

Specimens examined: *Rawat* s.n. (E), *Rawat* 2211 (Herbarium W.I.I.), Tungnath, Chamoli

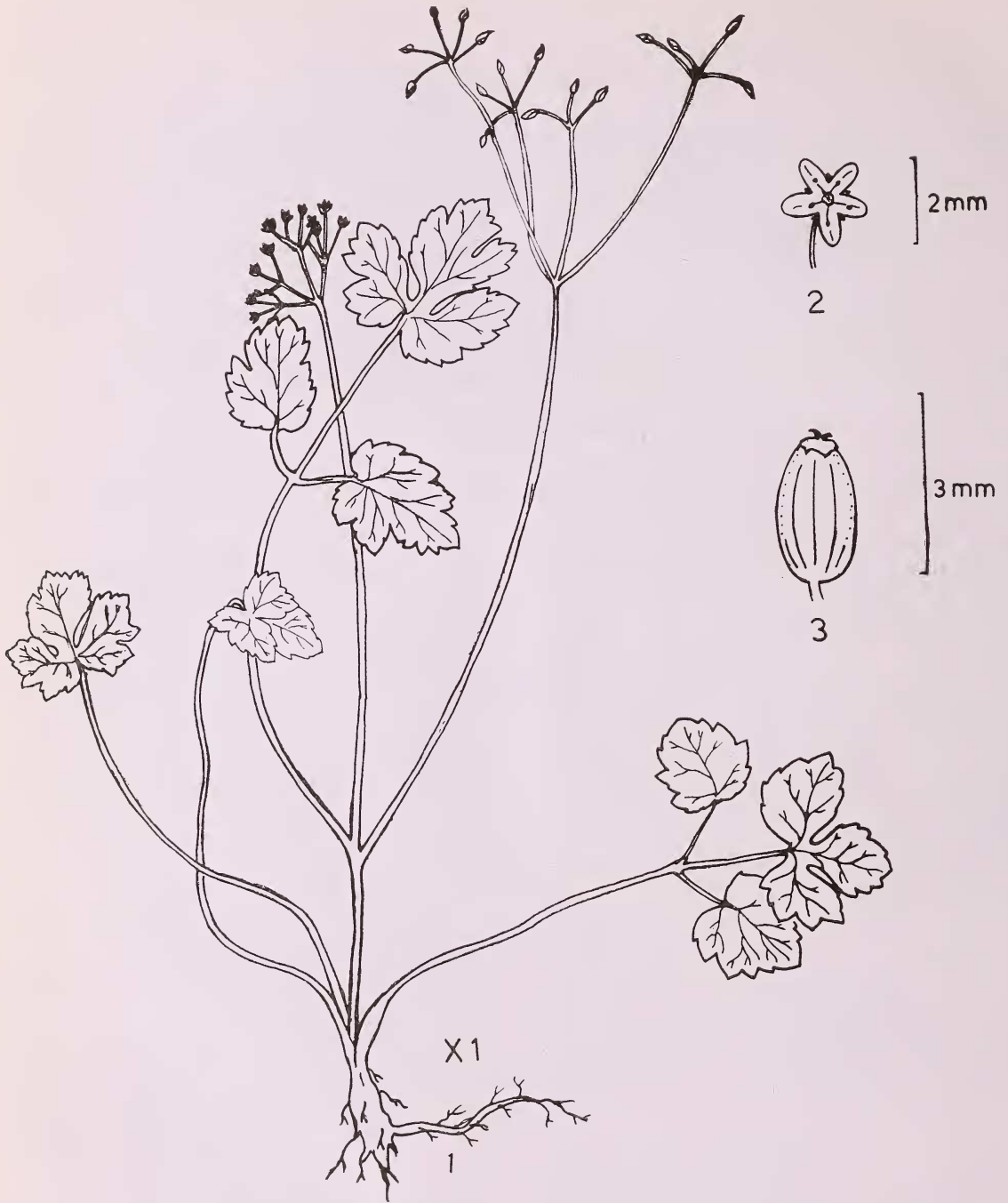


Fig. 1. *Lalldhwojia cooperi* Farille
1. Habit; 2. Flower; 3. Fruit.

